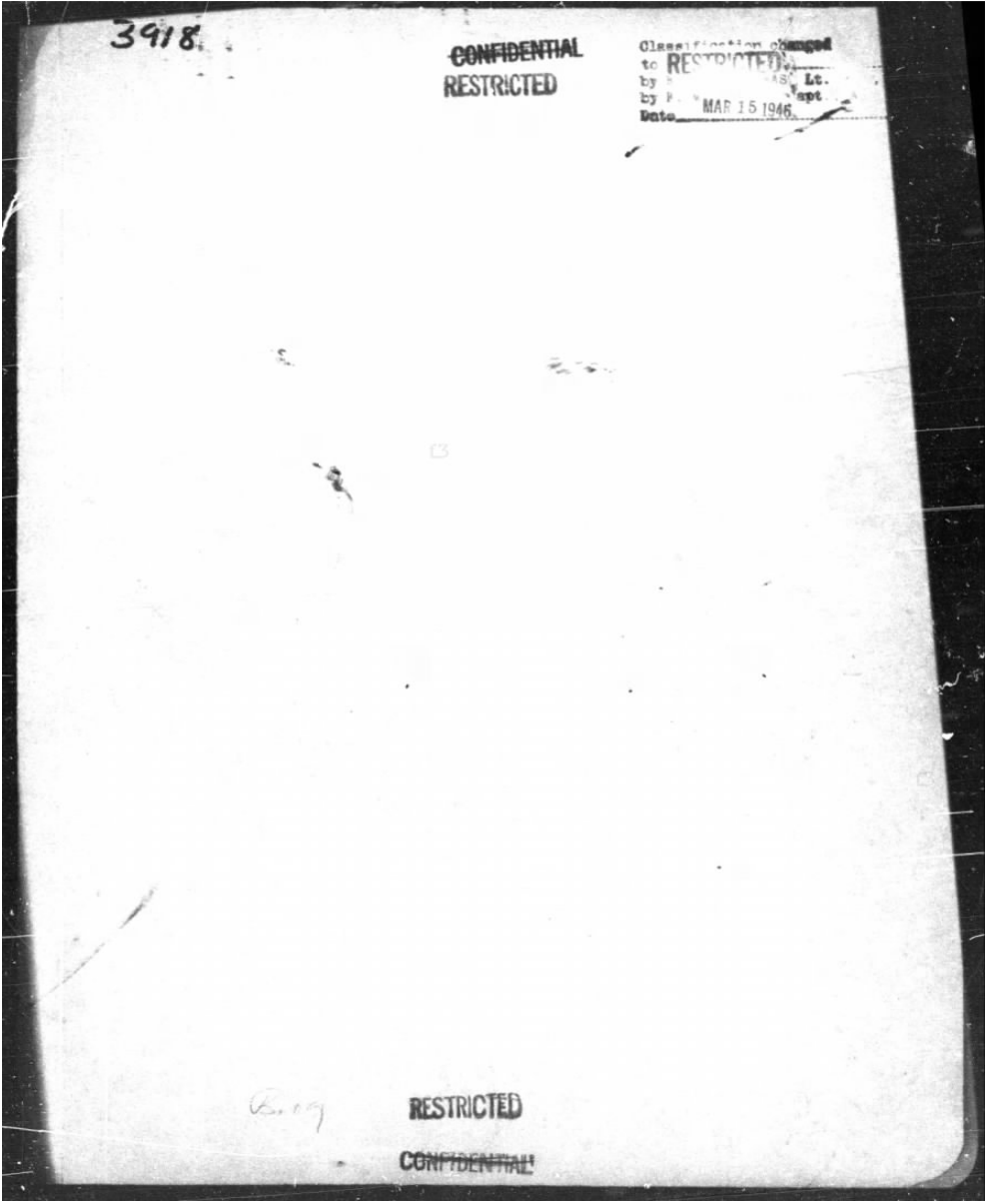


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Major James B. Beane	Mrs. Justine C. Beane, (wife) 5143 Hartwick Street, Los Angeles, California.
Captain Robert L. Stone	Mrs. Hazel L. Stone, (wife) Celina, Tennessee.
2nd Lt. Roger A. Johnston	Mrs. Anna C. Johnston, (mother) 2114 Farwell Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
2nd Lt. Russell K. Crans	Mrs. Virginia R. Crans, (wife) 165 Lawnside Avenue, Collingswood, New Jersey.
T/Sgt. John J. Struerer	Mrs. Louise Wombacher, (mother) 116-18 20th Street, Ozone Park, New York.
T/Sgt. Bennie C. Hayman	Mrs. Elva Hayman, (mother) Box 266, McComb, Mississippi.
T/Sgt. Oren E. Howard	Mrs. Inad Hufft, (mother) 2316 Orange Avenue, Long Beach, California.
S/Sgt. Patrick A. Marnell	Mr. Phillip J. Marnell, (father) Rural Free Delivery Number Four, Parsons, Kansas.
S/Sgt. William F. Berry	Mrs. Delia Berry, (mother) 35 Brackett Street, Portland, Maine.
S/Sgt. Eugene Cuff	Mrs. Lillian K. Cuff, (mother) Rural Delivery Number One, Hackettstown, New Jersey.
S/Sgt. Robert R. Yeaton.	Mrs. Norma A. Yeaton, (wife) 1400 West Street, Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

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360.33 1st Ind.  
 Hqs., 451st Bomb. Gp. (H), APO 520, US Army, 12 April 1944.

3918  
 C: CEC/ru

To: C. G., 48th Bomb. Wing, APO 520, US Army.

CEC  
 C. E. C.

1 Incl:  
 Incl 1 - MAC Rept, Robert L. Stone & Crew,  
 9 April 44 w/4 incls (quad)

360.33 2nd Ind.  
 HEADQUARTERS 49TH BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 14 April 1944.

C-9

957

To: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520, U.S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Commanding Officer:

*John E. Mitchell*  
 JOHN E. MITCHELL,  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 Adjutant.

1 Incl: n/e

AG 360.33 3rd Ind.  
 HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 22 April 1944.

GP-n/gov

To: CG, MATOUSA, APO 51. Attn: Casualty Branch, AGD.

1. Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated PCR No. I-58, dated 20 April 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU 20 April 1944.

For the Commanding General:

*Harold E. Neely*  
 HAROLD E. NEELY,  
 Major, AGD,  
 Assistant AG.

1 Incl:  
 Incl 1 (dup).

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*Incl 4*

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724TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
 451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
 A.P.O. 520 US Army.

360.33

9 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer,  
 451st Bomb Gp.(H),  
 APO 520, US Army.

1. Transmitted herewith Missing Air Crew Report of crew assigned to this Squadron, reported missing in action as of 5 April 1944, on mission over Floesti, humania.

RANK	NAME	ASN
Captain	Robert L. Stone	0-439092
Major	James B. Beane	0-413562
2nd Lt.	Roger A. Johnston	0-807914
2nd Lt.	Russell K. Crans	0-679609
T/Sgt.	John J. Steurer	32358869
S/Sgt.	Patrick A. Marnell	37144445
T/Sgt.	Bennie C. Hayman	14151502
T/Sgt.	Oren E. Howard	18162258
S/Sgt.	William F. Berry	31219877
S/Sgt.	Eugene (NMI) Cuff	12038841
S/Sgt.	Robert R. Yaton	12139207

2. Subject personnel are battle casualties as defined by paragraph 2, Section III, Circular 10, NATOUSA, dated 24 January 1944.

3. Battle Casualty Report forwarded your headquarters 6 April 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

*Norman W. Mochel*  
 NORMAN W. MOCHEL,  
 1st Lt., Air Corps,  
 Adjutant.

1 Incl:  
 Incl 1 - MAC Rpt, Robert L. Stone & Crew.  
 9 April 44, w/4 incl. (quint)

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HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE ENGINEERS      Classification changed  
 to **RESTRICTED**  
 by 2-11-64 Lt. Col., AG

**IMPORTANT:** This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Unit, AC Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Pancrazio, Italy Command or Air Force 18th Group 451st Bomb Sq (H) 724th Bomb Sq (H) Detachment

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Pancrazio, Italy Course ALSW 1915E-422N 2345E- Intended Destination Ploesti, Romania Type of Training

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR LAST REPORTED POSITION 2/10 Cloudy

4. GIVE: (a) Date 4/5/44, Time 1441, and Location Ploesti, Romania of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft  
 (b) Specify whether (x) last sighted; ( ) last contacted by radio; ( ) forced down; ( ) seen to crash; or ( ) information not available

5. AIRCRAFT'S LOSS: Check as indicated to show how lost, if different from (check only one) ( ) Enemy aircraft, (x) Enemy anti-aircraft, ( ) Other circumstances as follows \_\_\_\_\_

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial B-24 H, and Serial Number 42-5247

7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Serial PI-R-1930-43, Serial Number 79 301075  
 (b) CP 302882 (c) CP 302880 (d) CP 301978

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish make, type and serial number) Browning M.G. 50s  
 1. 951184 (c) 951375 ( ) 951825 (c) 951712 (c) 951243 M-2  
 J. 951907 (e) 951601 ( ) 951484 ( ) 951917 ( ) 951917

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW THE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty MIA or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_

10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT, crew 11, of whom None total 11 (Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: if more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Remarks
1 Pilot	Kitson, Robert L.	Captain	0-439082	RTD
2 Co-pilot	Abeane, James B.	Major	0-413522	RTD
3 Navigator	Johnston, Roger A.	2nd Lt.	0-307914	RTD
4 Bombardier	Grans, Russell K.	2nd Lt.	0-679509	RTD
5 Upper Turret	Stehrer, John J.	1/Sgt	32358889	RTD
6 Left Waist	Kearnell, Patrick A.	2/Sgt	3714446	RTD
7 Nose Gunner	Blawson, Bennie C.	1/Sgt	14151602	RTD
8 Radio Operator/Gunner	Howard, Oren E.	1/Sgt	16162253	RTD
9 Tail Turret	Sherry, William F.	2/Sgt	21219377	RTD
10	See Reverse Side			

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LEFT AND RIDE IN AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMNS TO INDICATE HOW THEY LEFT

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Paroled	Escaped	Crash	Left/Abn
1. Moran, Thomas K.	1st Lt.	0-724966		X		
2. Manosian, Harris A.	1st Lt.	0-720541		X		
3. Hamilton, Henry T., Jr.	2nd Lt.	0-609047		X		

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE PARACHUTED AND IF ALL TO GO ON THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes, (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_, or (c) Any other reason (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

13. ATTACH SERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING LOCATION OF WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN \_\_\_\_\_

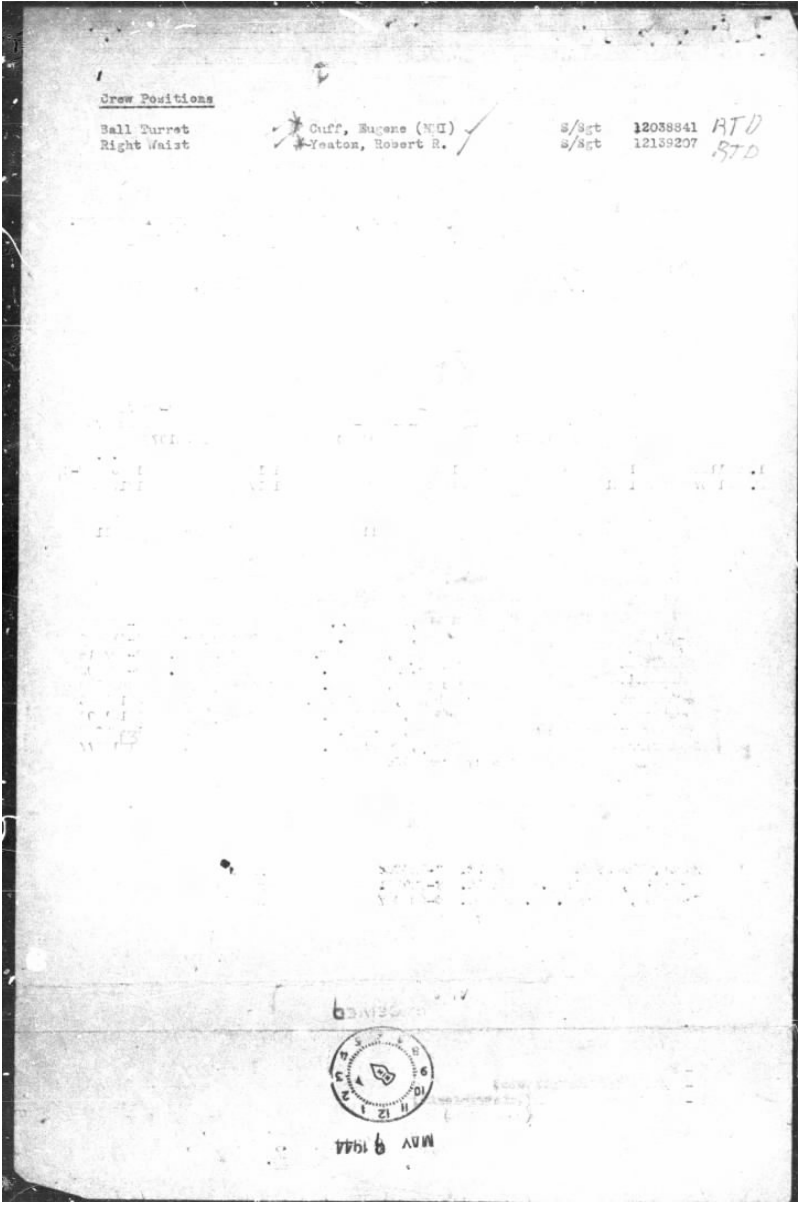
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED DOWNING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT \_\_\_\_\_

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE No Search Made

Incl - 4      Date of report 9 April 1944

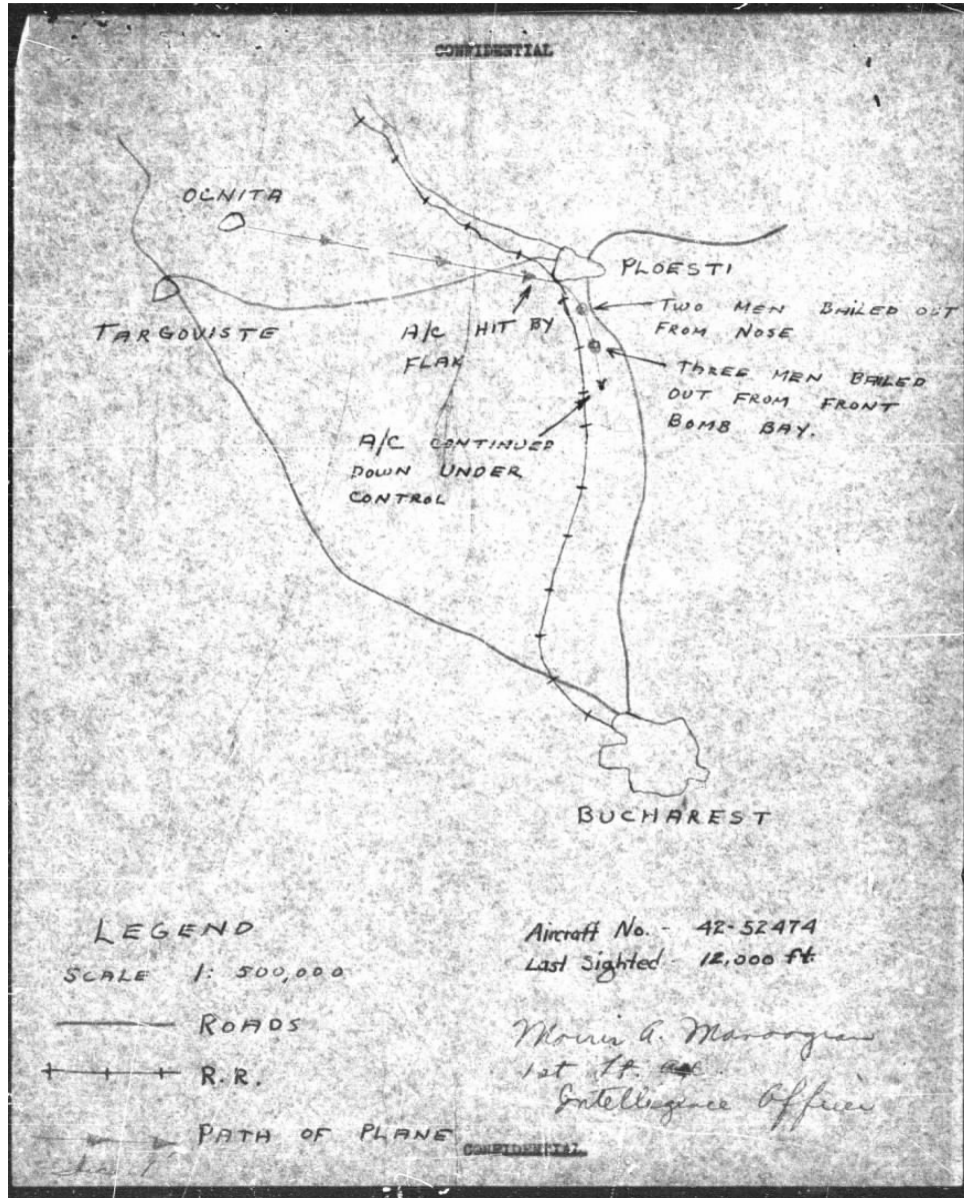
1 - Sketch (Quintuplet)  
 2 - Eyewitness Report (Quintuplet) (Manogian) Norman W. Mochel  
 3 - Eyewitness Report (Quintuplet) (Moran) NORMAN W. MOCHEL  
 4 - Eyewitness Report (Quintuplet) (Hamilton) CONSPIRACY 1st Lt., Air Corps, Adjutant.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~724TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
A.P.O. 520 US Army.9 April 1944. E3STATEMENT

On April 8, 1944, I was flying as observer in the Deputy Ship, right wing of Captain Stone, at 1439. I saw his ship swerve slightly as it received a burst of flak on its left wing, approximately 1 minute prior to releasing its bombs. The ship continued on course under control, dropping its bombs on the target at the right moment. Immediately following the release of bombs, two men baled out through the nose wheel door as the ship began to lose altitude, still under control. A few seconds later, 3 more men baled out through the front bomb bay. I followed the ship as it continued down, still well under control. I last saw it at about 12,000 feet, under control. A large gaping hole could be seen in the wing, between engine nacelles No. 1 and 2.

*Morris A. Manoochian*  
MORRIS A. MANOOCHIAN,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer.

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*See 2'*



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724TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US Army

9 April 1944

S T A T E M E N T

I was pilot flying right wing, or deputy lead of the group which Captain Stone was leading. We were on the bomb run for approximately three and one-half minutes when Captain Stone's plane dropped below the two wing planes. Thinking this was evasive action, I followed as best I could and when we were again in position, I sensed that Captain Stone's ship was hit by flak as there were several bursts near us. Approximately 30 seconds later he dropped his bombs and immediately after release of his bombs, the plane swerved to the right and started down in a slow gradual descent. As the plane left the formation, two men came out of the nose wheel door, and at various times during the descent of the ship, men were noted coming out of the bomb bay and waist windows. In the wake of the plane eight parachutes were observed. I believe the plane was hit by flak in a vital spot and unable to continue the homeward flight.

*Thomas R. Moran*  
THOMAS R. MORAN,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
First Pilot.

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*inc #3'*

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724TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US Army

9 April 1944

S T A T E M E N T

I was navigator flying Number 3 position in the lead flight. We were on the bomb run with bomb bay doors open, and at 1439, I observed Captain Stone's bombs being released. About the same instant I saw his ship swerve to the left and dive. Shortly afterwards the ship righted itself and I observed one man coming out the bomb bay door. A large hole could be seen in the leading edge of the left wing about one-third of the way between #1 engine and the tip of the wing. When last seen the ship was apparently under control.

*Henry T. Hamilton, Jr.*  
HENRY T. HAMILTON, JR.,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
Navigator.

*mc # 4*

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